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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1. DISCUSS THE TREND IN FARM WAGES.
2. GIVE THE INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED BY N. C. FARMERS.
3. WHAT IS THE U. S. PARITY RATIO FOR JANUARY?
4. COMPARE 1950 HATCHERY OUTPUT WITH 1949 PRODUCTION.
5. GIVE THE INDICATED SIZE OF THE 1951 TURKEY CROP.
6. HOW MUCH HONEY WAS PRODUCED IN NORTH CAROLINA LAST YEAR?
7. ON JANUARY 1 WERE GRAIN SUPPLIES LARGER OR SMALLER THAN A YEAR EARLIER?
8. GIVE THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE 1950 APPLE CROP.
9. WAS THERE ANY NOTICEABLE CHANGE IN FEED PRICES DURING JANUARY?

No. 78

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 5, 1951

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND OTHER CURRENT ITEMS

STATE FARM NUMBERS DOWN SLIGHTLY

The number of farms in the State decreased slightly between 1945 and 1950 according to preliminary figures released by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

The data for 1950 are not fully comparable with those for 1945. In 1950, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms only if agricultural products, exclusive of home garden, with a value of \$150 or more were produced in 1949.

Also in 1950, places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms only if the value of agricultural products sold amounted to \$150 or more.

In 1945, places of 3 or more acres as well as those of less than 3 acres

(Continued on Page 2)

FARM WAGE RATES INCREASE

Farm wage rates in North Carolina continue to advance. On January 1 farm wage rate index was 536 percent of the 1910-14 base period average. Wage rates for hired farm workers in the State were higher than on January 1 of last year.

The average daily wage for workers with house furnished was \$3.70, up 20 cents per day from the preceding year, while wages per day without room and board were up 25 cents to \$4.45.

DAILY AND HOURLY FARM WAGE RATES FOR NORTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES

AREA AND CLASSIFICATION	JAN. 1 1950	JAN. 1 1951
NORTH CAROLINA		
PER DAY:		
WITH HOUSE	\$3.50	\$3.70
WITHOUT ROOM AND BOARD	4.20	4.45
PER HOUR:		
WITH HOUSE	.44	.44
WITHOUT ROOM AND BOARD	.49	.53
SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES		
PER DAY:		
WITH HOUSE	\$3.35	\$3.55
WITHOUT ROOM AND BOARD	3.95	4.25
PER HOUR:		
WITH HOUSE	.45	.46
WITHOUT ROOM AND BOARD	.50	.55

HONEY PRODUCTION INCREASES

North Carolina honey production in 1950 totalled 2,775,000 pounds - 13 percent more than in 1949 but 35 percent below the 5-year (1944-48) average production of 4,263,000 pounds.

The increase over 1949 production was due to average production per colony increasing from 13 pounds in 1949 to 15 pounds in 1950. The 5-year average production is 24 pounds per colony. The total number of colonies in the State at 185,000 compares with 189,000 in 1949.

Reporters indicate 1950 was a very poor honey year, particularly in the western part of the State. Supplemental feeding was required, and in some instances even through the honey making season.

Although there was a very good sourwood bloom in the mountain counties there was apparently no nectar. This was also true to a large extent of other flowering plants. Honey production was generally good in the Eastern Coastal Plains areas.

(Continued on Page 4)

RECORD TURKEY CROP INDICATED

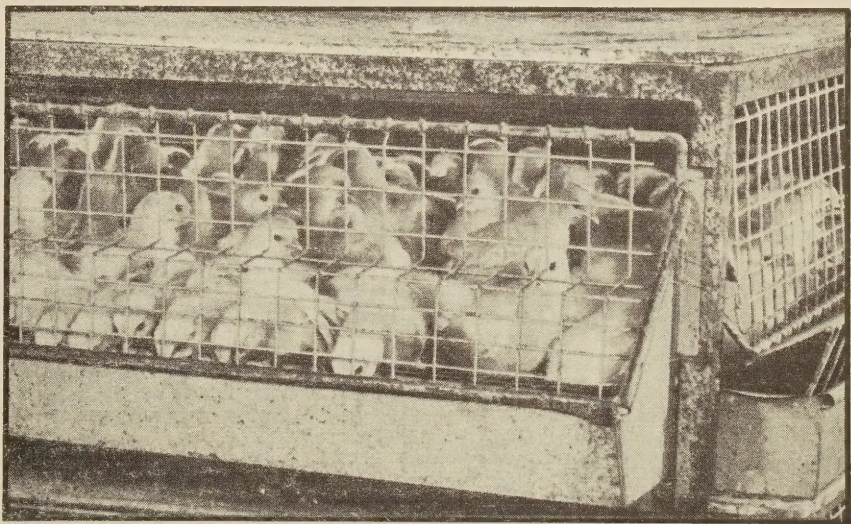
Reports from turkey growers in North Carolina indicate they plan to produce a record crop of turkeys this year. Growers indicate they plan to increase production by 25 percent over last year's crop. If these intentions are carried out, the number of turkeys raised in the State this year will total 729,000 compared with the previous record production of 583,000 in 1950. Such a production this year would be 50 percent over the number raised in 1949 and 114 percent above the 1943-47 average.

Reasons given by growers for the sharp increase from last year include expected strong demand and higher prices for red meat. Supplies of feed and poults are also expected to be plentiful during the coming year.

Across the Nation turkey growers plan to raise a record crop of turkeys this year. If growers carry out their intentions, the number of turkeys raised this year will be

(Continued on Page 4)

NORTH CAROLINA HATCHERIES PRODUCED 55,091,000 CHICKS IN 1950



FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1951

WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDREDWEIGHT	NORTH CAROLINA		UNITED STATES	
	DEC. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1951	DEC. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1951
- DOLLARS -				
MIXED DAIRY FEED				
ALL KINDS.....	3.95	4.05	3.91	4.07
16% PROTEIN.....	3.75	3.85	3.81	3.97
18% PROTEIN.....	3.85	3.95	3.93	4.11
20% PROTEIN.....	4.15	4.25	3.99	4.16
HIGH PROTEIN FEEDS				
COTTONSEED MEAL...	4.35	4.45	4.67	4.81
LINSEED MEAL.....	-	-	4.28	4.46
SOYBEAN MEAL.....	4.30	4.40	4.34	4.51
MEAT SCRAP.....	6.30	6.50	6.39	6.52
GRAIN BY-PRODUCTS				
BRAN.....	3.50	3.60	3.13	3.24
MIDDINGS.....	3.75	3.80	3.31	3.38
CORN MEAL.....	4.35	4.40	3.81	3.99
CORN GLUTEN.....	-	-	3.31	3.53
POULTRY FEED				
LAYING MASH.....	4.90	5.00	4.67	4.82
SCRATCH GRAIN.....	4.30	4.50	4.13	4.29

STATE FARM NUMBERS (Continued)

were counted as farms if the agricultural products produced in 1944 were valued at \$250 or more. The figures for 1950 may be revised slightly when final compilations are made.

The following table gives the number of farms in each county, according to the 1950 Census of Agriculture, together with figures for 1945.

NORTH CAROLINA--NUMBER OF FARMS BY COUNTIES: 1950 AND 1945

COUNTY	NUMBER OF FARMS		COUNTY	NUMBER OF FARMS	
	1950	1945		1950	1945
STATE...	286,905	287,412			
ALAMANCE...	2,946	2,720	JOHNSTON...	8,100	7,774
ALEXANDER...	1,904	1,945	JONES...	1,604	1,706
ALLEGANY...	1,627	1,602	LEE...	1,655	1,713
ANSON...	2,556	2,436	LENOIR...	3,782	3,848
ASHE...	3,887	3,955	LINCOLN...	2,440	2,503
AVERY...	1,786	2,173	MCDOWELL...	1,556	1,982
BEAUFORT...	3,326	3,443	MACON...	2,276	2,350
BERTI E...	3,138	3,350	MADISON...	3,457	3,642
BLADEN...	3,669	3,480	MARTIN...	2,786	2,868
BRUNSWICK...	2,168	1,799	MECKLENBURG...	3,215	2,896
BUNCOMBE...	4,266	5,710	MITCHELL...	1,931	1,944
BURKE...	2,074	2,028	MONTGOMERY...	1,216	1,160
CABARRUS...	1,954	1,986	MOORE...	2,594	2,302
CALDWELL...	2,482	2,407	NASH...	5,854	5,990
CAMDEN...	464	575	NEW HANOVER...	400	716
CARTERET...	614	1,085	NORTHAMPTON...	3,359	3,087
CASWELL...	3,054	2,689	ON SLOW...	2,178	2,145
CATAWBA...	3,144	3,040	ORANGE...	2,038	1,851
CHATHAM...	2,978	2,801	PAMLICO...	788	735
CHEROKEE...	1,937	2,007	PASQUOTANK...	785	877
CHOWAN...	798	1,048	PENDER...	2,280	2,275
CLAY...	1,012	1,048	PERQUIMANS...	2,960	1,159
CLEVELAND...	5,348	5,443	PERSON...	2,843	2,839
COLUMBUS...	6,321	5,761	POLK...	5,969	6,526
CRAVEN...	2,345	2,266	POLK...	1,197	1,153
CUMBERLAND...	3,070	3,319	RANDOLPH...	3,618	3,601
QUINCY...	542	679	RICHLAND...	1,658	1,923
DARE...	36	49	ROBESON...	8,523	8,602
DAVIDSON...	3,401	3,507	ROCKINGHAM...	4,401	4,221
DAVIE...	1,510	1,647	ROWAN...	3,118	3,474
DUPLIN...	5,911	5,654	RUTHERFORD...	3,541	3,803
DURHAM...	1,784	1,471	SAMPSON...	7,218	7,059
EDGECOMBE...	3,980	3,615	SCOTLAND...	1,686	1,787
FORSYTH...	3,295	3,370	STANLY...	2,594	2,232
FRANKLIN...	4,117	4,140	STOKES...	3,632	3,513
GASTON...	2,431	2,454	SURRY...	4,311	3,711
GATES...	1,279	1,287	SWAIN...	927	1,068
GRAHAM...	759	891	TRANSYLVANIA...	1,096	1,273
GRANVILLE...	3,334	3,147	TYRRELL...	542	568
GREENE...	2,944	2,937	UNION...	4,959	4,577
GUILFORD...	4,768	4,669	VANCE...	2,404	1,875
HALIFAX...	4,471	3,808	WAKE...	6,221	6,044
HARNETT...	4,840	4,516	WARREN...	3,161	2,982
HAYWOOD...	2,784	2,891	WASHINGTON...	865	926
HENDERSON...	2,394	2,703	WAYNE...	2,640	2,591
HERTFORD...	1,943	1,965	WILKES...	4,916	4,946
Hoke...	1,733	1,950	WILSON...	5,075	5,348
HOPE...	686	800	YADKIN...	4,303	4,781
IREDELL...	4,140	3,918	YANCEY...	3,344	2,986
JACKSON...	2,256	2,430		2,741	2,870

FEED PRICES ADVANCE

North Carolina farmers paid higher prices for most high protein and grain by-product feeds during the month ended January 15 than they paid a month earlier. Scratch grain and meat scrap showed the greatest change, advancing 20 cents per hundred pounds over the previous month's price. Middlings and corn meal were up 5 cents per hundred and all other feed prices showed a 10 cents per hundred increase.

Compared with prices paid during the same period a year ago, Tar Heel farmer's feed bills were up sharply during the month ended January 15. While the range in price increases was from 20 cents per hundred for meat scrap to \$1.00 per hundred for cottonseed meal, most feed prices were generally 40 to 50 cents per hundred pounds higher.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JANUARY 15, 1951

WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		DECEMBER 15	JANUARY 15	JANUARY 15
		1950	1951	1951
- DOLLARS -				
CORN.....	BU.	1.38	1.52	1.54
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.20	2.26	2.09
OATS.....	BU.	.97	1.04	.882
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.40	1.42	1.27
RYE.....	BU.	2.50	2.40	1.48
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.52	2.62	2.90
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.35	4.15	3.84
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.128	.124	.109
TOBACCO				
TYPE 11-37.....	LB.	.459	.515	.478
COTTON.....	LB.	.417	.427	.413
COTTONSEED.....	TON	98.00	99.00	101.00
WOOL.....	LB.	.60	.70	.98
HOGS.....	CWT.	18.10	19.70	20.00
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	20.00	22.60	27.00
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	26.60	27.60	30.80
SHEEP.....	CWT.	12.50	12.20	15.20
LAMBS.....	CWT.	27.50	27.50	30.00
MILK COWS.....	HEAD	155.00	155.00	227.00
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.234	.241	.243
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.705	.578	.426
MILK, WHOLE.....	CWT.	5.60 b/	5.70 a/	4.66 a/
BUTTER, RETAIL.....	QT.	.206	.206	.196
BUTTER.....	LB.	.56	.56	.611
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.57	.59	.702
HAY, ALL BALED.....	TON	28.50	28.80	22.60
POTATOES.....	BU.	1.50	1.50	.986
SWEET POTATOES.....	BU.	1.85	2.00	1.94
APPLES COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	1.90	2.15	2.17
LESPEDeza SEED.....	CWT.	9.20	9.90	8.98
KOREAN.....	CWT.	6.90	7.70	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	11.60	12.10	-
COM. & TENN. 76.....	CWT.	16.00	16.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	17.50	17.50	-

a. Preliminary
b. Revised

N. C. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DOWN 6 POINTS

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers at local markets decreased 6 points during the month ended January 15. The decrease in the index was the result of lower egg prices and the absence of tobacco sales in making up the index. The current "All Farm Products" index at 308 compares with 314 in December, 218 on January 15, 1950 and 245 on January 15, 1949.

The grains commodity index increased 8 points as the result of higher prices received for corn, wheat, oats and barley (see table above).

The cotton and cottonseed index increased 7 points during the month ended January 15. Cotton increased one-tenth of a cent per pound and cottonseed at \$99.00 was up \$1.00 per ton.

The meat animals index increased 38 points -- from 373 to 411. Hogs, beef cattle and veal calves increased during the month ended January 15.

Hogs increased \$1.60 per hundredweight, while beef cattle increased \$2.60 per hundredweight. Sheep and lamb

(Continued on Page 3)

COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		AVERAGE PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	DEC. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1951	DEC. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1951	DEC. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1951
	-DOLLARS-				-PERCENT-	
COTTON, LB.....	.404	.413	.324	.330	125	125
WHEAT, BU.....	2.03	2.09	2.31	2.35	88	89
CORN, BU.....	1.45	1.54	1.68	1.71	86	90
OATS, BU.....	.849	.882	.988c/	.954c/	86	92
BARLEY, BU.....	1.19	1.27	1.54c/	1.48c/	77	86
RYE, BU.....	1.37	1.48	1.79c/	1.73c/	77	-
BEEF CATTLE, CWT.	25.40	27.00	18.00	19.10	141	141
HOGS, CWT.....	17.70	20.00	19.90	20.60	89	97
LAMBS, CWT.....	27.40	30.00	19.80	21.00	138	143
CHICKENS, LB.....	.223	.243	.302	.302	74	80
EGGS, DOZ.....	.577	.426	.533c/	.515c/	95d/	82d/
MILK, WHLSE, CWT.	4.54	4.66d/	4.58	4.62	91d/b/	95d/

a/ Preliminary

b/ Revised

c/ Transitional parity, 95 percent of parity prices computed under formula in use prior to January 1, 1950.

d/ Percentage of seasonally adjusted prices to parity prices.

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS (N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	DEC. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1951	JAN. 15 1950	JAN. 15 1949	JAN. 15 1948
NORTH CAROLINA INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	314	308	218	245	273
COTTON & COTTONSEED	339	346	214	242	276
GRAINS.....	184	192	163	182	252
MEAT ANIMALS.....	373	411	317	364	379
POULTRY.....	314	271	190	290	302
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	236	242	223	242	244
TOBACCO.....	382	-	256	295	276
MISCELLANEOUS.....	232	235	232	234	246
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID-a	118	113	88	99	109
UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	286	300	235	268	307
PRICES PAID.....	265	272	249	248	215
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID..	108	110	94	108	121

a. Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. prices paid.

N. C. PRICES INDEX (Continued)

prices remained the same as December.

The poultry index decreased 43 points as the result of a decrease of 12.7 cents per dozen in the price N. C. farmers received for eggs. The price of all chickens increased only slightly. The dairy products index increased from 236 to 242 as the result of higher prices received for wholesale milk and butterfat. The miscellaneous products index increased 3 points. The increase in soybeans, wool, sweetpotatoes and apples more than off-set slightly lower prices for peanuts and cowpeas.

PRICES RECEIVED BY U. S. FARMERS UP 5 PERCENT PARITY INDEX UP 3 PERCENT

Higher prices for virtually all U. S. farm products except eggs, oranges, grapefruit, cottonseed, and turkeys, pushed the Index of Prices Received by Farmers for January 15, 1951, up 5 percent, or 14 points from December to 300 percent of its 1910-14 base. At this level the index has been exceeded only in December 1947 at 301, and in January 1948 at 306.

At the same time the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, including Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates) rose 3 percent, or 7 points, to 272 percent of its 1910-14 base, a new high. A sharp increase in farm wage rates together with higher prices for goods bought for both living and production contributed to this rise. Interest per acre on farm real estate indebtedness and farm real estate taxes payable per acre, as indicated by preliminary data, are up from 1950 levels and also contributed to the increase.

As a result of the greater rise in prices received by farmers, the Parity Ratio rose from 108 in December to 110 as of mid-January. The Parity Ratio is the highest since September 1948, but well below the record high of 122 set in October 1946.

APPLE, PEAR AND GRAPE PRODUCTION UP IN 1950

Commercial apple production in North Carolina during 1950 is estimated at 1,296,000 bushels -- 189 percent greater than the small 1949 crop and the largest production since 1944. Of the total, however, 52,000 bushels of apples were not harvested due to economic conditions.

The total value of the 1,244,000 bushels harvested estimated at \$2,053,000 is second highest of record for the State, being exceeded only by total value of the 1946 apple crop.

Peach growers on the other hand had one of the smallest crops of record. Production is estimated at 548,000 bushels, 62 percent below the 1949 harvest and the second smallest crop since 1923. April freezes severely damaged the peach crop in the State. Quality of the crop was also below normal this year as small set of fruit in many orchards would not warrant usual application of spray materials.

Pear production in the State is of little commercial significance. Production totalled 150,000 bushels compared with 130,000 bushels produced a year ago and a 10-year (1939-48) average of 280,000 bushels. Weather effects were much the same as for peaches.

The 5,500 tons of grapes produced in North Carolina during 1950 was 22 percent above the short 1949 crop and almost 6 percent above the 10-year average production.

The pecan crop was 30 percent short of 1949 production. The 2,047,000 pounds of pecans produced in 1950 compares with a production of 2,924,000 the preceding year and a 10-year (1939-48) average of 2,204,000 pounds.

NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTION, FARM DISPOSITION AND VALUE OF FRUITS AND NUTS - 1949, 1950

CROP	UNIT	PRODUCTION		FARM DISPOSITION				SEASON AVE. PRICE		VALUE					
				FOR FARM HOUSEHOLD USE		SOLD		REC'D BY FARMERS		FOR TOTAL PRODUCTION		FOR HOUSE- HOLD USE		FOR SALES	
		1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950
		THOUSAND										THOUSAND			
APPLES.....	BUSHEL	448	1,296 1/	238	400	210	844	2.00	1.65	896	2,053	476	660	420	1,393
PEACHES.....	BUSHEL	1,428	548	400	143	1,028	405	2.70	4.10	3,856	2,247	1,080	587	2,776	1,660
PEARS.....	BUSHEL	130	150	105	110	25	40	1.90	2.00	247	300	199	220	48	80
GRAPES.....	TONS	4.5	5.5	2.8	3.4	1.7	2.1	145.00	165.00	652	908	406	562	246	346
PECANS (ALL)	POUNDS	2,924	2,047	780	650	2,144	1,397	.243	.304	710	618	188	193	522	425

1/ Includes 52,000 bushels not harvested because of economic conditions.

FARM REPORT

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FEBRUARY 5, 1951

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

RECORD SEED POTATO OUTPUT IN 1950

Reports from certifying officials in 27 States, mostly in the northern half of the country where the bulk of the seed potatoes are grown, show that 50,527,308 bushels of certified seed potatoes were produced in 1950.

This is the largest crop of seed potatoes ever harvested, and represents 11.5 percent of all Irish potatoes produced. The 1950 production is 5 percent larger than the 48,252,157 bushels produced in 1949 and 68 percent above the 1939-48 average of 30,036,528 bushels.

The average yield of 346 bushels per acre is equal to last year's record and more than half again as large as the average of 226 bushels.

1950 CHICK PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD

A total of 3,068,000 chicks were produced by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina during December. This was the largest December hatch on record, exceeding production during the same month a year ago by 77 percent and the five-year (1944-48) average by almost 91 percent.

December production was 23 percent below that of the preceding month however. Demand for broiler chicks dropped sharply during the month as a result of lower prices for finished broilers.

Output in the State during 1950 totaled 55,091,000 chicks--24 over 1949 production. In the last six months of the year, a new high production record was set for each respective month.

In the South Atlantic States, eggs in incubators on January 1, 1951 were up 13 percent from a year earlier and 28 percent more chicks were booked for February delivery.

TOTAL GRAIN SUPPLY UP 2 PERCENT

A total of 62,355,000 bushels of grains (corn, wheat, oats, barley and rye) were stored in all positions in North Carolina on January 1. This is about 2 percent greater than the total available supplies of grains in all storage positions in the State a year earlier.

Corn stocks in all positions, meaning on-farm plus off-farm stocks totalled 55,270,000 -- slightly above the 55,058,000 bushels available on January 1, 1950. Total corn stocks represent almost 89 percent of grain supplies on hand in the State.

About 2,275,000 bushels of wheat were stored in all positions on January 1, 1951. This is an increase of 12 percent over holdings a year earlier. Of the total 1,305,000 bushels of wheat are stored on farms and 970,000 bushels in off farm positions.

Stocks of oats held in all positions on January 1 this year totalled 4,509,000 bushels -- 21 percent greater than a year earlier. On farm supplies of 4,151,000 bushels this year compare with 3,546,000 bushels held on farms January 1, 1950. Oats production for the State in 1950 was only slightly larger than for the preceding year. Current stocks would indicate that the rate of disappearance to date has been much slower than a year earlier.

More than 2,664 million bushels of corn were in all storage positions in the U. S. on January 1, 1951. This total is about 5 percent smaller than stocks on January 1, 1950, and barely exceeds the 1949 total, but is much larger than in any other year of record. Nearly 2,161 million bushels of corn remained on farms, also a relatively large quantity.

TURKEY CROP (Continued)

44,773,000, about 1 percent more than in 1950.

A 5 percent intended decrease in in the West almost offsets expected increases in all other areas of the country, except the West North Central States where no change is planned.

The numbers of turkeys actually raised usually vary from January 1 intentions, the difference depending on prices of feed, supply and prices of hatching eggs and poults, and the value of turkeys remaining in growers' hands.

Prices received by growers for turkeys during the last half of 1950 averaged 5 percent lower than in 1949, while feed prices rose 8 percent, resulting in much smaller profits for the grower in 1950.

Live turkey prices in mid-December were 3 percent below a year ago, while the cost of the farm poultry ration was up 11 percent.

HONEY PRODUCTION (Continued)

Producers received an average price of 30.3 cents per pound for all honey compared with 30.8 cents received in 1949.

Total value of the 1950 honey crop is estimated at 841,000, up 11 percent from a year earlier but 36 percent below the 1944-48 average.

Across the Nation, honey production in 1950 totalled 233,013,000 pounds, 3 percent more than in 1949 and 9 percent above the 1944-48 average. Honey production per colony averaged 41.5 pounds, which compares with 40.6 pounds last year, and the 1944-48 average of 38.1 pounds. The 1950 crop was produced by 5,612,000 colonies of bees, about the same number as in 1949.